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# URBAN DISTRICT OF IVYBRIDGE.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1920.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
IVYBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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### NATURAL CONDITIONS.

The Urban District of Ivybridge consists of some 600 acres, and lies in a valley formed by the River Erme. The district lies on the southern edge of Dartmoor. The soil is exceedingly light and porous, being largely composed of granite detritus.

### POPULATION.

1911 Census: 1730. 1920: 1614, according to the estimate sent to me by the Registrar General. It must not be assumed that this is the actual population.

## *OCCUPATIONS.*

The chief industry is that of paper manufacture, in which about 250 persons are employed.

## *POOR LAW RELIEF.*

This is granted to about 30 persons.

## *HOSPITALS.*

Cases of serious illness and accident which cannot be treated in the patient's home are sent to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth. There has been no delay in the reception of urgent cases at that hospital, but other cases may have to wait for several weeks before admittance, owing to the accommodation being less than the demand for it.

There is no hospital for cases of infectious diseases, and the lack of such accommodation is occasionally felt. If a suggestion is made that various neighbouring urban and rural districts should combine to build and maintain a small hospital for infectious diseases, I would recommend the Council to support a suitable scheme.

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## *SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.*

### *WATER SUPPLY.*

An excellent and plentiful supply is available from the reservoir which collects the water from an area of about 400 acres of moorland, free from any cultivation or residences. The water is exceptionally soft and pure. The average rainfall on the collecting area is said to be 55 inches per annum. The reservoir can contain 4,300,000 gallons. As a precaution against contamination the reservoir is fenced. No cases of plumbism have been noted during the year.

### *DRAINAGE.*

The Sewage works continue to act in a satisfactory manner.

### *CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.*

No serious irregularities have been reported.

### *SLAUGHTER HOUSES.*

These have been inspected, and the white-washing attended to.

### *DAIRIES AND COW HOUSES.*

These have been inspected from time to time, and the regulations of the local act enforced.

### *SCAVENGING.*

is done by contract, and the refuse is collected weekly by house-to-house visits. In spite of this, certain refuse is at times thrown into the river and is unsightly.

### *HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.*

Arrangements are being made for the erection of working-class houses on Bridge Park, an excellent site.

### *SCHOOLS.*

The Public Elementary School is supplied with town water, and the sanitary condition is good. No closing of the School has been necessary on account of infectious disease during the year.

Lady Rogers' School for Orphan Girls has a satisfactory private water supply. Its sanitary condition is good, and no cases of infectious disease have occurred in it during the year.

### *INFECTIOUS DISEASES.*

Very few cases of notifiable disease have occurred during the year, and those few have been isolated cases, there having been no epidemic.

### *PHTHISIS.*

One death from pulmonary tuberculosis occurred.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### BIRTHS.

The births totalled 36, being at the rate of 22.3 per 1000. All were legitimate children.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

There were two deaths under the age of 1 year, both being legitimate children. The infant mortality was thus at the rate of 55.5 per 1000 births.

### DEATHS.

The deaths totalled 21, being at the rate of 13.011 per 1000. The causes of death were as follows:—

Abdominal growth, 1; Atheroma and Heart Failure, 1; Bronchitis, 3; Carcinoma, 2; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 2; Cirrhosis of Liver, 1; Cystitis, 1; Dermatitis, 1; Diabetes, 1; Epilepsy, 1; General Paralysis, 1; Pneumonia, 3; Tubercle, 2; Valvular Disease of Heart, 1.

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## GENERAL SUMMARY.

On the whole the district can be regarded as having enjoyed excellent conditions during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. TRUMPER,

Medical Officer of Health.